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**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
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**FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
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BHCE/BWP OPERATIONS MEMO

No.: 03-45 Corrected

Date: 07/30/2003

Non W-2 ☒ W-2 ☐ CC ☐

PRIORITY: HIGH

SUBJECT: MEDICAID UNEMPLOYED PARENT CHANGES

CROSS REFERENCE: **MA Handbook**, Unemployed Parent Unit, Appendix 4.4, &
AFDC Medicaid Non-Financial Unit, Note # 2

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2003

PURPOSE

This Operations Memo describes the implementation of changes to the policy regarding Unemployed Parent criteria for AFDC- Medicaid (MA U) and AFDC-Related MA (MAOU) eligibility in 2-parent families.

BACKGROUND

AFDC-MA and AFDC-Related MA are the categories of MA that are based on AFDC rules that were in effect on July 16, 1996. The AFDC program ended in March 1998 and was replaced with the W-2 program. Federal law requires that states cover people who would be eligible for AFDC if it were still in existence. There are 2 categories of AFDC and AFDC-Related MA.

1. MA R (Regular - MAOR)
2. MA U (Unemployed / Underemployed Parent - MAOU).

Non-financial eligibility for AFDC MA is based on the deprivation of a child under the age of 18 or a dependent 18-year-old.

Deprivation matters in the eligibility determination for:

1. Adults and Children for MA R/MA U (AFDC-MA)
2. Adults for MAOR/MAOU (AFDC-Related MA)

MEDICAID UNEMPLOYED PARENT POLICY CHANGES

Effective August 1, 2003 the MA Unemployed/ Underemployed Parent deprivation standard is always met in a 2-parent household. This means that as long as there is non-financial eligibility, 2-parent families will be assessed for MAU and MAOU based upon their income, just as 1-parent families are for MAR/MAOR.

1. Un/Underemployment in AFDC and MA *was*:

- a. 2-parent household who met criteria involving:
 1. Primary Wage Earner (PWE)
 2. Work History
 3. Work Quarters
 4. Unemployment Compensation
 5. 100 hour rule

2. Un/Underemployment in AFDC MA is *now*:

- a. 2-parent household

Offenders Working Without Pay (OWWP) are still considered to be absent from the home and thus ineligible for AFDC-MA and AFDC-Related MA. These types of households remain potentially eligible for MAR/MAOR.

Two-parent households with 1 parent absent due to military service (Military Parent-MP) would previously have been found ineligible due to the MP having employment exceeding 100 hours. Under the new policy these households will now be potentially eligible for MAU/MAOU. The Military Parent, however, remains ineligible.

While there is still an Incapacitation (INCAP) policy, adults in two-parent households will no longer need to be tested as INCAP since these households will now be eligible under the new Unemployed Parent policy. Disabilities should be recorded on ANDI not ANIC.

CARES IMPACTS

Screen AGWH (Work History) will no longer be scheduled for the eligibility determination of two-parent households for any eligibility months being run from August 2003 forward.

Example: If a new Household applies on 8/1/03 requesting a 3 month back-date: The old policy applies to eligibility months 5/03 through 7/03. Eligibility in month 8/03 is based on the new policy and AGWH will not be scheduled for 8/03 (and beyond).

Example: If a new Household applies on 11/1/03 requesting a 3 month back-date: The new policy applies to all eligibility months being run (from 8/03 forward). AGWH will not be scheduled.

Example: If a worker runs eligibility for 8/1/03 forward, the new policy applies for eligibility month 8/03 and all other months. AGWH will not be scheduled.

Example: If a worker runs eligibility with dates for a past period, 7/31/03 and back, the old policy applies to eligibility month 7/03 (and all prior months) and AGWH will be scheduled.

Unemployed parent rules will not be checked for the eligibility determination of 2-parent households for any eligibility months being run from 08/03 forward

IMPLEMENTATION

For those ongoing cases where MAU/MAOU has been denied or terminated for the eligibility period of August 2003 forward based on the old policy, re-determine eligibility at the **earliest** of these occasions:

1. At the next review
3. The next time MA eligibility is being re-determined
4. At the recipient's request

In addition, the work around of recording income as OTMA on AFUI to make the case cascade from MA U/MAOU to another MA program should be stopped. The income amounts should be removed and SFEX run to have the case process correctly.

Example: An ongoing case where there is no MAU/MAOU eligibility because the PWE (Primary Wage Earner) worked more than 100 hours. The worker runs eligibility with dates for:

08/01/03 forward: The new policy applies from eligibility month 08/03 forward and MAU/MAOU eligibility passes. AGWH will not be scheduled.

07/31/03 or previous: The old policy applies to eligibility month 07/03 and any previous month so MAU/MAOU eligibility continues to fail. AGWH will be scheduled.

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.